



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr, 7th District

1st Vice-Chairman, County Board

Chairman, Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee

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SUP. MAYO STATEMENT ON AIRPORT FEE STRUCTURE

Fee structure is not a new tax on County residents

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., is responding to inaccurate claims being made by both candidates running for Milwaukee County Executive regarding proposed revisions to fee structures for private companies doing business at General Mitchell International Airport.

“Let’s be perfectly clear. There is a difference between taxes and fees. This is not a tax increase on the residents of Milwaukee County,” Supervisor Mayo said. “The airport uses no property tax dollars in its operation. Instead, the airport is funded by user fees placed on passengers, airlines, and private firms that do business at the airport. This is the way all major airports are operated. Simply changing a fee structure is not a new tax.”

Earlier this month, the County Board’s Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee delayed action on fee and policy changes for off-site parking lots, hotels and other businesses that rely on the airport to provide customers. The proposals were referred to Corporation Counsel for further study. The items will come back to the Committee as part of the County Board’s open legislative process.

“In the future, if Mr. Abele or Representative Stone proposes any fee increase as County Executive, **I will remind them of their misguided belief that fees are the same as taxes.** Hopefully, they will learn by then,” Supervisor Mayo said. “With nearly ten million passengers in 2010, a 24% increase from 2009, Mitchell became the fastest growing major airport in the nation. To keep up with this record growth, we must operate on par with other airports across the nation. Revised fee structures are one of several tools we need to consider as airlines continue to offer more services from Milwaukee.”

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